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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 19

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THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **8:30 a.m.** Canada faces Sweden in the women's curling gold medal match. Jennifer Jones' rink has a chance to win Canada's first women's Olympic curling gold since 1998.
- **12 p.m.** Canada and the U.S. battle for women's hockey gold for the fourth time. Canada has won the last three golds, and beat the U.S. in the preliminaries.
- **12:30 p.m.** Rosalind Groenewoud will go for the inaugural gold in women's ski halfpipe. She's already an X Games and World Championship gold medallist.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

Hedge(hog) your bets and say later to your gator

Day 2: We're not monkeying around, exotic pets can be lethal

PAGES 12 & 13

TAKE THAT LATVIA — WAIT... WHAT?

Canadian defenceman Shea Weber celebrates his game-winning goal against Latvia during third-period quarter-final action at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics on Wednesday. Canada eked out a 2-1 win. For more on the unexpected nail-biter, see page 26.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

What's keeping us off the bus?

Transit. OC Transpo says it's federal job losses, but others blame service cuts

STEVE COLLINS
ottawa@metronews.ca

The general manager of OC Transpo clashed Wednesday with a councillor and union leader over what is causing people to forego the bus — federal job losses or the city's own cost cutting measures.

At Wednesday's transit commission meeting OC Transpo's general manager John Manconi dismissed the idea service cutbacks were to blame: "There is no statistical evidence that we have that says there is a direct correlation between route optimization and ridership drop."

Transit ridership declined again in the last three months of 2013, down 2.1 per cent from the same period in 2012 according to OC Transpo's latest quarterly performance report. Officials placed the blame squarely on job losses.

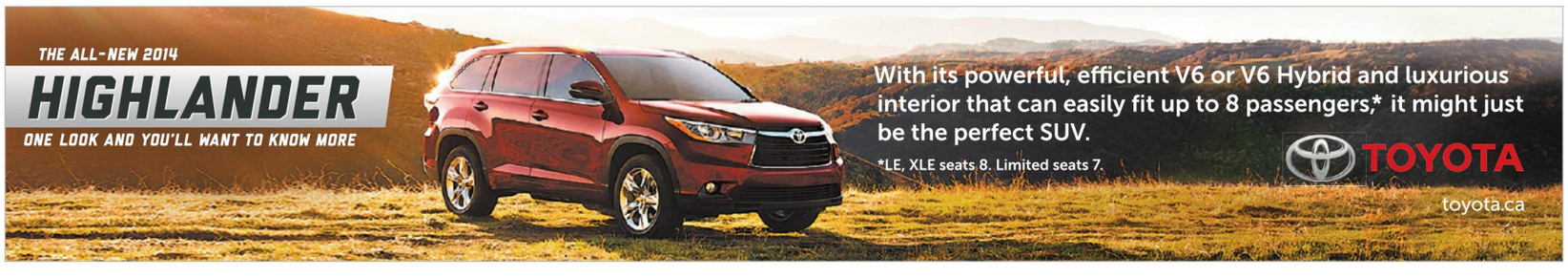
"Employment in the Ottawa-Gatineau region, which has a very strong correlation to changes in ridership, was once again lower by the end of Q4 2013 than in Q4 2012," the report reads, citing Statistics Canada numbers that 19,300 jobs had disappeared in the area by the end of last year.

Innes Coun. Rainer Bloess argued that the 2011 'route optimization,' which cut $20 million from transit service, can't be counted out as a factor.

"If you cut routes or eliminate routes and if you cut service, you are going to reduce ridership, and it's coming home to bear now. It didn't happen overnight, but we're seeing a trend here," Bloess said.

Craig Watson, president of the transit union, was just as adamant that there is a connection.

"It was an economic decision made by the council and transit commission at the time and you have to accept that it's going to going to cause ridership to drop," he said. "Don't be surprised ridership is down because you made decisions. Live with your decisions."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From the Senate to the strip club: Brazeau's new gig

That's some resumé. Disgraced senator is the new manager of Bare Fax Gentlemen's Club

Patrick Brazeau has gone from sitting in the Senate to helping run a strip club.

The suspended senator, who faces criminal charges in connection with the expense scandal that roiled the august upper chamber last year, is now working as a manager at an Ottawa strip joint.

Brazeau has been spotted inside the Bare Fax Gentlemen's Club in recent days, but he declined Wednesday to speak to reporters camped outside the establishment who trailed him inside to the door of his office.

Carmelina Bentivoglio, the daughter of the club's owner, said Brazeau interviewed for a job as a day manager two weeks ago. He'll be responsible for "scheduling, hiring, firing, inventory — just like any other job," she said.

"He was looking for a job, was speaking with my family member. He knew that I was looking for somebody," Bentivoglio said.

Working at the Bare Fax is the latest in a string of odd jobs for Brazeau since he was suspended from the Senate last fall.

Brazeau has been without a steady Senate paycheque since his suspension in November. Prior to that, his pay had been docked to recover more than $48,000 in inappropriate housing and travel expenses.

Earlier this month, the Mounties charged Brazeau and former senator Mac Harb with one count each of fraud and breach of trust in relation to their travel and living expense claims.

The disgraced senator is also facing charges of assault and sexual assault as a result of an incident last February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau has found work at the Bare Fax strip club near Parliament Hill in Ottawa, shown here on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blondin happy with Sochi performance

Ivanie Blondin THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It didn't matter to Robert Blondin that his daughter Ivanie didn't make it to the podium at the Sochi Winter Olympics Wednesday.

The Ottawa dad was happy just to see his little girl take on the world at her first Olympics during the final of the 5,000-metre long track speedskating race Wednesday morning.

"Oh my goodness, it was so exciting. We had her on the big screen here at the restaurant," said Blondin, who watched the race with family and friends at Broadway Bar & Grill in Orleans.

"My hands were just shaking and my knees and my wife had tears in her eyes. Just seeing her race, she looked so good."

Ivanie Blondin was the only Canadian skater to make it into the final round, but she couldn't catch gold medallist Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic. Blondin finished 14th overall.

"I was 14th out of 16, but to be able to even race it was an accomplishment and also just being here. I was happy with how I raced it," said a very tired Blondin from her hotel balcony in Sochi about an hour after her race.

Blondin said her experience has been "absolutely amazing," although she was a little overwhelmed when she first arrived. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Terror trial turns into war of words over Arabic-English translation

Lost in translation.
With 85,000 phone calls intercepted, too few formally trained RCMP translators, trial hears

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

An RCMP constable's credibility was questioned Wednesday during the trial of a London, Ont., doctor accused of participating in an alleged terror plot.

Cst. Driss Drissi was responsible for translating parts of a tapped phone conversation from Arabic to English in a covert RCMP operation that led to the arrest of Dr. Khurram Syed Sher in 2010 for allegedly co-conspiring on terrorist attacks.

Defence lawyer Michael Edelson challenged Drissi's translation abilities and accused him of "injecting opinion" into the transcript.

Quoted

"Just looking in a dictionary doesn't necessarily give the context of a word. You still have to determine how it's being used."
Defence lawyer Michael Edelson

When pressed by Edelson, Drissi admitted that his background is not in translation beyond informal training with the RCMP in Montreal. He often referred to Arabic-English dictionaries and the Quranic Arabic Corpus for Islamic meanings.

"They are all accurate to the transcription described," said Drissi, who was born in Morocco and speaks fluent Arabic.

Edelson said he was "struggling to understand" why other RCMP officers trained in translation did not take on the task, but Drissi said there were 85,000 phone calls intercepted and too few people to translate.

"Just looking in a dictionary doesn't necessarily give the context of a word," said Edelson. "You still have to determine how it's being used."

Lawyers have previously clashed on the accuracy of an audio recording in the Sher trial. But this time, it boiled down to the Arabic translations.

For example, the word "kafir," which means "non-Muslim," was translated as "infidel" on the transcript.

"You are injecting opinion," said Edelson. "You have injected a negative connotation here."

Drissi denied the allegation and said there could have been more derogatory terms associated with "kafir." Drissi also translated "kauraj," which could mean "departure," or "exiting," as its Islamic definition: "Physical Jihad."

'Just not acceptable'

Keep student housing on campus, say residents

Close to a dozen community associations are calling on the city to put a building moratorium on any off-campus student housing — everything from rooming house conversions to large-scale student complexes.

Neighbours say they are fed up with raucous students overrunning their quaint and quiet communities.

"You come here and there is garbage all over the place," said Sandy Hill resident Dean Pallen.

"On Friday and Saturday night there is people vomiting, there is broken glass all over the place, it's crazy. To have this stuff going on is just not acceptable."

Ten community associations have signed a letter to the city calling for an urgent student housing strategy and policy and a freeze on developments like Viner Assets' proposed nine-storey, 630-bed student housing project in Sandy Hill, which the city will vote on next week. It's projects like this and rooming houses (single family homes converted into large apartments) that residents say are changing the rustic character of old Ottawa communities.

"There used to be kids living in those homes," said Pallen. "Now you go by them and you see the windows filled up with Jack Daniels bottles."

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

The University of Ottawa unveiled plans for a new $17.5-million student housing complex on Henderson Avenue.
COURTESY KATIE FROOM

Ottawa university tackles student housing crunch

The University of Ottawa is trying to fill a housing gap for first-year students with a new $17.5 million residence that will be home to some 170 pupils.

"We have a deficit of about 1,000 beds for first-year students, so this will obviously help us get closer to meeting the needs of more first-year students," said the university's director of housing services, Michel Guilbeault, adding that college freshmen are the "most vulnerable" when it comes to student housing.

"They end up in the community and we are talking about 17- and 18-year-olds who are living independently away from home for the first time trying to make the transition to independent living," she said.

What will new digs have:

- 169 single rooms
- Kitchen on each floor
- Rooftop gardens
- Shared bathrooms
- Concrete and brick
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Most of the 1,000 or so students who don't have on-campus housing spill out into bunkhouses in neighbouring communities. The shortage has caused tension between students, the city, the school and homeowners who feel their neighbourhoods are being overrun by wild students.

"We are making every effort to try and respect the fabric of the neighbourhood and to be mindful of the residents. Ultimately we want to be good neighbours," Guilbeault. said.

The four-storey residence will be built on university-owned land on Henderson Avenue, behind the school's Advanced Research Complex and will boast 169 single rooms with a kitchen on each floor and shared common spaces.

Building should begin sometime this summer.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

'Unequal'. Ontario's youth mental health care plagued by inconsistencies: Study

A landmark study on Ontario's mental health care for youth reveals gaping inconsistencies across the province.

Dr. Stephanie Greenham, a psychologist and clinical researcher at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and University of Ottawa professor, surveyed 25 hospital-based programs across the province about units, services and patient characteristics.

Inpatient mental health care consists of designated hospital beds for children and youth with mental health illnesses like mood, anxiety or psychotic disorders.

But the level of care varies across the province. For example, some hospitals restrict the age of children and youth admitted to those beds, while others will allow anybody under age 18.

Dr. Greenham said that's a problem.

"There's unequal access across the province," she said.

"So depending on where a child or a youth lives, they have access to different services than another child living somewhere else."

She said there's no overall reason for the discrepancies, but there are no existing standards for psychiatric care.

The Ontario Network of Child and Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatry Services will be drafting new guidelines in time for its annual general meeting in October, she said.

Dr. Stephanie Greenham, a psychologist and clinical researcher at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, led a study on Ontario's inpatient psychiatry care for youth.
CONTRIBUTED

The study also found that the majority of youth accessing inpatient mental health care are adolescents and the most prevalent problem is suicide risk.

While the province-wide inconsistencies sound like bad news, Greenham said Ontario is faring better than most places.

"Overall, I think we were quite reassured by the findings," she said. "The overall picture spoke to the fact that inpatient psychiatry services in Ontario compare well to other settings internationally."

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Hide-and-seek. RCMP hopes pig carcass will lead to missing bodies

The Saskatchewan RCMP is hoping a bright orange pig carcass will help them locate missing bodies in Saskatchewan's river system.

Equipped with a radio transmitter and GPS tracker, members of the RCMP's major crimes historical case unit (HCU) placed the 180-pound pig into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.

"The whole idea of this project is to track this pig's movements as it flows down the river and hopefully, that will give us some insight as to where bodies end up," said Cpl. Tyler Hadland of the HCU, noting six bodies are presumed to be in the South Saskatchewan River.

"The Saskatoon historical case unit has been annually searching the river, by plane and by boat, for the past number of years and we haven't been able to recover any of these bodies," he said. "So it's quite a mystery."

A member of the Saskatchewan RCMP places a bright orange pig carcass into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

RCMP said Wednesday's launch is the projects' second phase, as a pig carcass with similar tracking devices was placed into the North Saskatchewan River in North Battleford in the fall of 2013.

However, the carcass only travelled 20 kilometres before it was found on a sandbar a week later. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Cruise ship. Worker accused of rape, trying to throw victim off balcony

A cruise ship worker from Indonesia is accused of raping a passenger aboard a Holland America Line vessel and then trying to throw her overboard, authorities said Tuesday.

The FBI reports that 28-year-old Ketut Pujayasa was arrested Sunday when the MS Nieuw Amsterdam returned to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. The incident occurred early Friday morning in international waters off the coast of Roatan, Honduras.

According to a criminal complaint, the victim — a 31-year-old U.S. woman — told investigators she was attacked and raped in her stateroom. The attacker tried to throw her from the balcony, but she escaped and received help from another passenger.

Pujayasa initially left the room but then turned himself in. The man told investigators he attacked the victim because she had disrespected him earlier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau responds to reporters questions at a news conference, Wednesday, during a two-day party caucus meeting in Quebec City. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau gears up to pick his A-team

Liberal convention. Canadians get a glimpse into what a Trudeau cabinet might look like

Justin Trudeau wants to be known by the company he keeps.

And starting Thursday at a four-day national Liberal convention, he'll be keeping company with people whose intellectual heft, breadth of experience and economic credentials he hopes will help dispel qualms about his suitability to be prime minister.

The Montreal convention, Trudeau's first since being crowned leader last April, will showcase some of the stars he's recruited to run for the Liberals in next year's election.

Among them: Jim Carr, president of the Business Council of Manitoba; Bill Morneau, head of the country's largest human resources consulting company and chairman of a respected think-tank; and Jody Wilson-Raybould, British Columbia regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations.

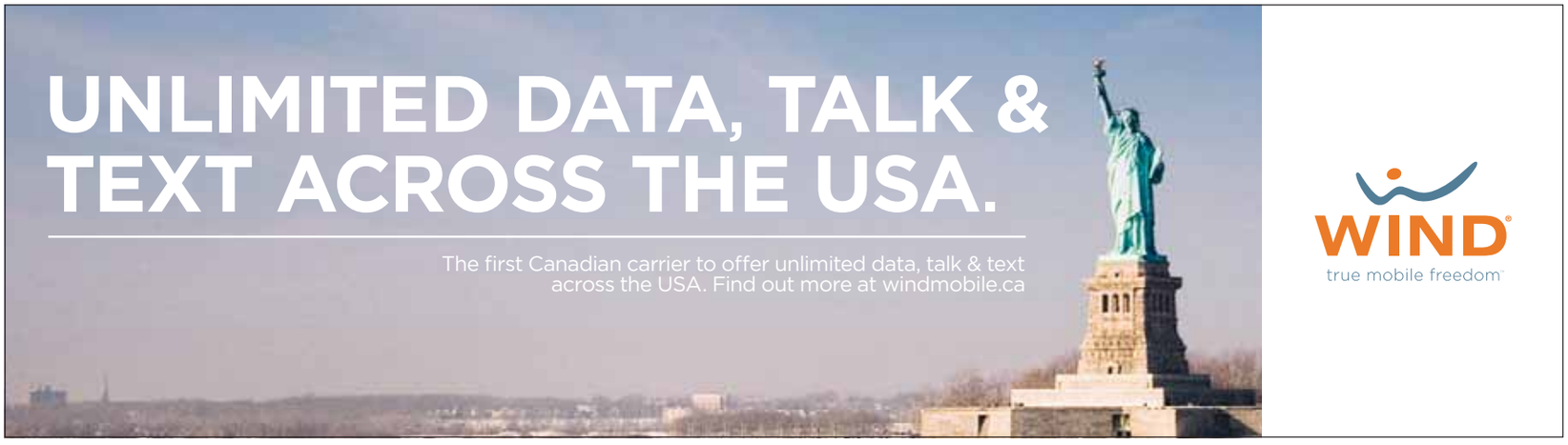
All three will make their debut as prospective members of Team Trudeau at the convention, where they're scheduled to give keynote speeches and take part in panel discussions.

Their high-profile roles are intended to give Canadians a glimpse of what they can expect to see in the Liberals' election platform and what a Trudeau cabinet might look like. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Trudeau

Other potential stars:

- Chima Nkemdirim, chief of staff to popular Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi
- Retired general Andrew Leslie, military and foreign policy advisor
- Chrystia Freeland, a former journalist who won a hard-fought byelection in Toronto Centre last fall.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Ukraine president, protesters call truce

Negotiations. Earlier violence that killed 26 had fuelled fears the nation could be sliding toward a messy breakup

Ukraine's embattled president and leaders of the protests that have been roiling the country agreed Wednesday on a truce to halt the violence that has killed 26 people and injured more than 425 others.

A protest leader was quoted as saying the government pledged not to attack an opposition encampment in central Kyiv while further negotiations unfold.

President Viktor Yanukovych met with opposition leaders and the two sides agreed to halt the violence and to hold talks on ending bloodshed, a statement on the presidential website said. The statement did not give any further details.

Vitali Klitschko, one of the leaders of the protests that have sought to keep Ukraine open to Europe and out of a close political and economic alliance with Russia, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that Yanukovych agreed that there would be no attempt to storm the protesters' encampment on the main square of downtown Kyiv.

Flames from burning barricades of tires and refuse leapt into the air at the square for a second night, as protesters demanding Yanukovych's resignation showed no sign of yielding.

The truce announcement came hours after the president replaced the army chief and the military vowed a national anti-terrorist operation to restore order. Officials have often referred to the protesters who have demanded Yanukovych's resignation as "terrorists."

Political and diplomatic manoeuvring has continued, with both Moscow and the West eager to gain influence over this former Soviet republic. Three EU foreign ministers — from Germany, France and Poland — were heading to Kyiv on Thursday to speak with both sides before an emergency EU meeting back in Brussels to consider sanctions against those responsible for the recent violence in Ukraine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An issue of identity

The recent violence has been the worst in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Kyiv.

- The two sides are locked in a battle over the identity of this nation of 46 million, whose loyalties are divided between Russia and the West.

Anti-government protesters protect themselves with shields during clashes with riot police in Kyiv's Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest, Wednesday, before the president and leaders of the protest called a truce. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-pats in North America

Tentative reaction

Ukrainians living in the United States and Canada reacted with tentative optimism Wednesday to news of a truce in the violence-torn country, while still shedding tears for their homeland and nervously wondering what will come next.

Yaakov Dov Bleich, who is the chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, reacted cautiously when interviewed in New York. He noted the enormity of clashes between government forces and protesters Tuesday that left at least 26 people dead.

Ukraine, he said, won't work as a dictatorship. "Certain red lines were crossed yesterday," Bleich said.

"I think it's going to be very hard to rebuild trust between people and the president."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Invite the Nazis over for dinner: Bertrand Russell

Pre-war letter unearthed. Nobel laureate wrote the idea would 'baffle' potential invaders

The Museum of Tolerance has acquired a 1937 letter written by Bertrand Russell in which the Nobel Prize-winning philosopher says if the Nazi army invades his native England the British should invite Adolf Hitler to dinner rather than fight.

The museum, part of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, announced Wednesday that it paid $4,000 for the letter at a London auction last month.

"If the Germans succeed in sending an invading army to England we should do best to treat them as visitors, give them quarters and invite the commander-in-chief to dine with the prime minister," Russell wrote to British critic Godfrey Carter. "Such behaviour would completely baffle them."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Wiesenthal Center's founder, says Russell's letter will be placed in the museum alongside one that Hitler wrote in 1919 outlining the anti-Semitic views that would lead to the Holocaust and killing of 6 million Jews.

Russell, one of the 20th century's leading pacifists, eventually changed his views on Hitler. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What was he thinking?

"He didn't understand ... the idea that ... if we act nice to Hitler, serve him the best wine, that Hitler will come around to see things our way — is just preposterous." Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder, Simon Wiesenthal Center

Missionary detained in North Korea

Karen Short, holding a photo of her husband, Australian missionary John Short, in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. Short says her husband went to North Korea last week with a person who returned to China on Tuesday saying he had been questioned and arrested at his Pyongyang hotel on Sunday. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Sudan

Refugees, UN staff trapped

Fighting between South Sudan's army and rebels in the capital of one of its oil-rich states is forcing UN personnel to remain inside a base where more than 20,000 residents are seeking refuge, officials said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

African migrants

Israel deports dozens to Uganda

Israel has begun sending dozens of African migrants to Uganda, an Israeli official said Wednesday, a move that has sparked concerns that they are being coerced into going to a country that may not keep them safe.

The move marks a new phase in Israel's campaign to rid itself of thousands of Africans who came to the country in recent years.

"We are very concerned that these deportations are clearly not taking into consideration the safety and well-being of the deportees," said Elizabeth Tsurkov, of the Hotline for Migrant Workers, an advocacy group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A member of the anti-Putin punk group Pussy Riot is restrained by a member of the Cossack militia in Sochi, Wednesday. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pussy Riot whipped by Cossack militia

Sochi Olympics. Russian protest group beaten and pepper sprayed to prevent protest performance

Cossack militia attacked the Pussy Riot punk group with horsewhips on Wednesday as the artists — who have feuded with Vladmir Putin's government for years — tried to perform under a sign advertising the Sochi Olympics.

Six group members — five women and one man — donned their signature ski masks and were pulling out a guitar and microphone as at least 10 Cossacks and other security officials moved in. One Cossack appeared to use pepper spray. Another whipped several group members while other Cossacks ripped off their masks and threw the guitar in a garbage can.

Police arrived and questioned witnesses; no one was arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whipping up the people

Pussy Riot is a performance-art collective with a membership of feminists who edit their actions into music videos.

- The group gained attention in 2012 after going into a Moscow cathedral and performing a prayer asking Mary to save Russia from Putin.

Tit for tat. U.S. artist charged with smashing a $1 million Ai Weiwei vase

Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei, who helped make his name smashing a valuable vase in the name of art, said Wednesday that he was miffed about another artist destroying one of his vases.

Maximo Caminero was charged with criminal mischief after destroying a vase valued at $1 million that was part of Ai's exhibit at the Perez Art Museum Miami. The Florida artist said he smashed the vase Sunday to protest the lack of displays of local artists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women walk past an exhibit by artist Ai Weiwei in Miami. GETTY IMAGES

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Escaping the death grip

Snake on the loose.
An Alberta man is lucky to be alive after his Burmese python coiled around him

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

The Burmese python is one of the world's five largest snakes. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Say that one day your beloved pet, whom you had watched sprout since his infancy, managed to break free of his warm, well-ventilated enclosure and began to wriggle his frame around you.

If you had any time to think, you might reflect that although you've been a benevolent caretaker all this time, you're now gasping for air as the ungrateful pet squeezes you ever tighter. Heartbreaking stuff, right?

The pet in question isn't a Labradoodle, and this isn't a story from somewhere in Southeast Asia.

Rather, it's a true tale that involves one of the largest snakes on the planet — the feared Burmese python — and a basement in Alberta.

"(The owner) had this rather large dangerous snake he kept in his basement," explained Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, who did not specify the location of the home. "He went down there to check on it and because it was loose it started to coil around him."

Luckily, the man was able to escape — albeit with a newfound and well-deserved fear of the tropical snake. He quickly called conservation officers to help him handle the creature.

The Burmese python is one of the world's five biggest snakes, a collection that also includes the African rock python. The latter is the same species of snake that killed two boys in New Brunswick last summer after escaping from its cage.

Unlike that situation, in which it appears the owner didn't have a permit, the owner in Alberta was able to legally possess the snake thanks to a grandfathering clause in provincial regulations.

"It was during a time in which we were changing regulations and becoming more strict," Dunford explained. "(The owner) got a shelter permit because he possessed it legally before we made our regulations more restrictive, so we grandfathered the possession of certain pets for a time."

Quoted

"After a day they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all."

Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, describing how officials corralled a loose Burmese python.

Once officers arrived, they developed a game plan to safely apprehend the snake.

As the Burmese python thrives in blisteringly hot conditions, Dunford said, officers decided to turn off the heat in the house in hopes that cooler conditions would slow the snake down.

It worked. "After a day, they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all," he explained. "They were able actually to help the owner simply get it back into its secure container."

But this is Canada — could I really meet a pet crocodile on the loose?*

The deaths of two young boys in New Brunswick last summer at the hands of an escaped African rock python alerted the country to the potential dangers of unusual pets.

But is there really such a threat in famously frigid Canada of encountering somebody's dangerous exotic animal?

It appears to depend on where you live, but generally, it seems that Canada poses a far bigger threat to odd pets than they do to us.

"Fortunately (in Alberta) we haven't had too many issues with exotics getting into the wild," Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, told Metro, noting the province does have a detailed action plan to handle these sorts of situations.

He said dangerous animals imported from sunnier locales, such as tropical snakes, would probably only survive during the summer months and wouldn't "last long when the temperature gets colder."

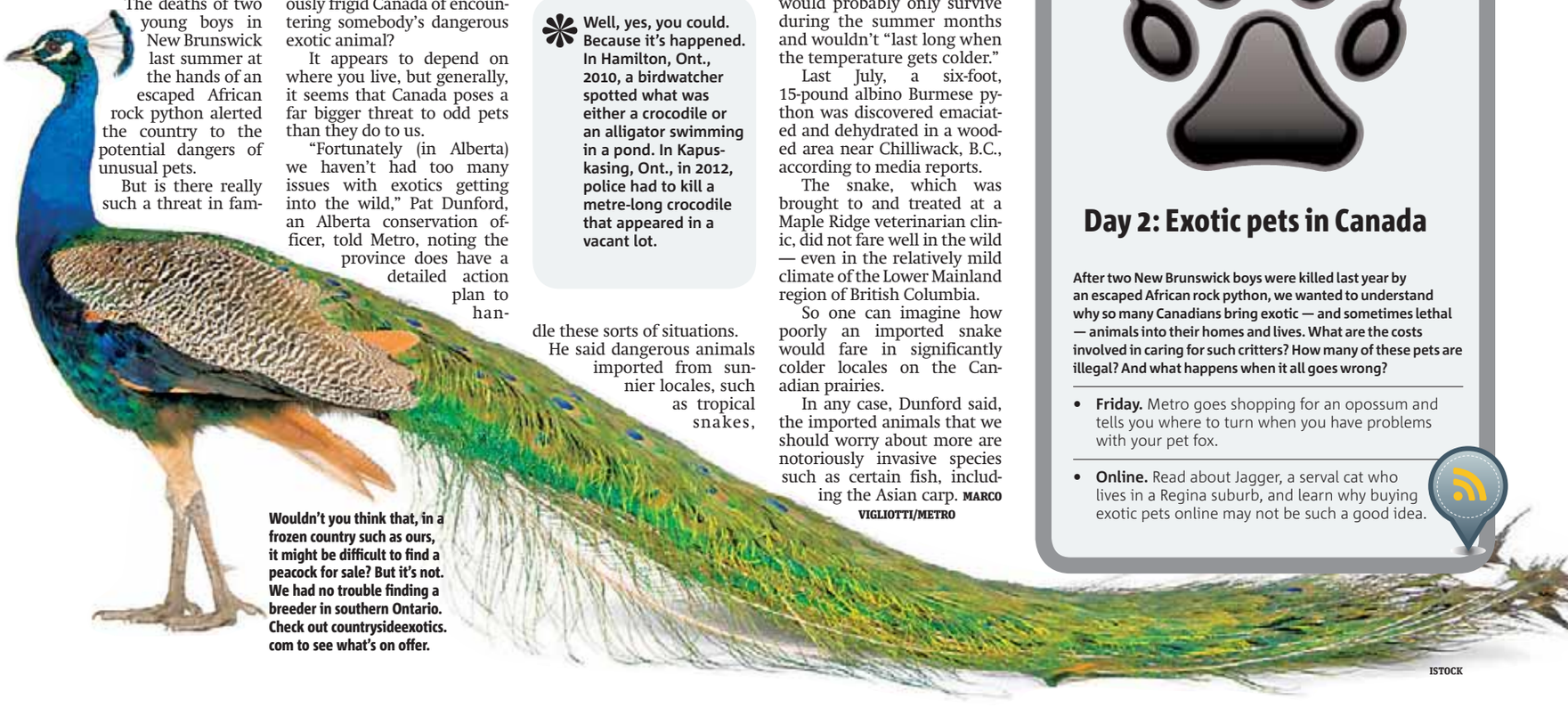
Last July, a six-foot, 15-pound albino Burmese python was discovered emaciated and dehydrated in a wooded area near Chilliwack, B.C., according to media reports.

The snake, which was brought to and treated at a Maple Ridge veterinarian clinic, did not fare well in the wild — even in the relatively mild climate of the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

So one can imagine how poorly an imported snake would fare in significantly colder locales on the Canadian prairies.

In any case, Dunford said, the imported animals that we should worry about more are notoriously invasive species such as certain fish, including the Asian carp. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

* **Well, yes, you could. Because it's happened. In Hamilton, Ont., 2010, a birdwatcher spotted what was either a crocodile or an alligator swimming in a pond. In Kapuskasing, Ont., in 2012, police had to kill a metre-long crocodile that appeared in a vacant lot.**


Wouldn't you think that, in a frozen country such as ours, it might be difficult to find a peacock for sale? But it's not. We had no trouble finding a breeder in southern Ontario. Check out countrysideexotics.com to see what's on offer.

ISTOCK

Day 2: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum and tells you where to turn when you have problems with your pet fox.
- **Online.** Read about Jagger, a serval cat who lives in a Regina suburb, and learn why buying exotic pets online may not be such a good idea.

The hot-button hedgehog

Sure, they're cute, but in some parts of the U.S., they also seem to be controversial —partly, it appears, because of a debate over whether they spread foot-and-mouth disease. According to online forum hedgehogcentral.com, the animals are illegal in California, Hawaii, Georgia and the five boroughs of New York City. Maine has also had restrictions, and the site describes the situation in Pennsylvania as "all out war on hedgehogs within the state."

Hedgehog advocates insist the animals are not a problem. Z.G. Standing Bear, treasurer of the International Hedgehog Association, told Torstar News Service last year that six U.S. states and several cities ban hedgehogs for "all kinds of reasons" based on "no facts at all." "They're benign. There is nothing dangerous about them. That's what irritates us so much; they get this bad reputation," he said.

Hedgehogs may be in for a tough time north of the border, too. Last year, a Toronto city councillor asked municipal staff to study adding animals including hedgehogs to the city's list of prohibited species. Flamingoes, penguins, walruses, vultures and seals are also in his sights. METRO

ISTOCK

An African pygmy hedgehog

What happens when it all goes wrong

In the past couple of decades, there've been a number of high-profile cases in Canada of exotic pets killing their owners:

• In 2007, 32-year-old Tanya Dumstrey-Soos was mauled by a tiger owned by her fiancé at a farm in 100 Mile House, B.C., while several children, including one of her own, watched. It's thought that the tiger didn't intentionally attack her, but rather was trying to play with her skirt as she stood outside its enclosure talking to it. The tiger, Gangus, was the only one of three tigers on the farm who wasn't declawed, and Dumstrey-Soos died of her injuries. Animals on the farm also included a lion and a lemur, and a variety of officials and animal welfare advocates said they'd had ongoing concerns about the farm.

• In 1992, 28-year-old Mark Neville of Brampton, Ont., was strangled to death by his five-metre-long pet Burmese python. At the time, the death prompted calls for consistent legislation on exotic pets, but unlike many provinces, Ontario still doesn't have provincial standards on the issue.

The investigating coroner said Neville had visited a friend's house where there was a shedding cat, and it's believed that later, when he put his hand in the python's enclosure, it smelled food and attacked.

• In early 2010, 66-year-old Norman Buwalda was killed at his home in Southwold, Ont., as he entered the cage of a 650-pound Siberian tiger. No one witnessed the attack, and police said they don't know why it happened. Buwalda was the chairman of the Canadian Exotic Animal Owner's Association, and had five wild cats, including a lion and a cougar. Six years previously, a 350-pound tiger seriously injured a boy visiting the property. METRO

You know that an octopus can make a tasty deep-fried appetizer, but did you know people keep them as pets? Read Metro tomorrow to find out which Hollywood star once had a cephalopod about the house.

ISTOCK

'If you're not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, please don't get one'

Lessons from Darwin. The former owner of the Ikea monkey says having a primate in the house takes time, energy and resources

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

After her pet monkey's romp around a Toronto-area Ikea, Yasmin Nakhuda has been struggling to get it back. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

She and what had been her pet monkey have made headlines in Canada for more than a year, since the primate managed to get out of her car outside a Toronto Ikea store and scamper around the property in late 2012.

Yasmin Nakhuda, a Toronto lawyer, is trying to get Darwin back through an appeal of an Ontario court ruling that has since kept the monkey at a primate sanctuary.

Metro asked Nakhuda about her case, and about having primates as pets.

Are you optimistic about your chance of reclaiming legal ownership of Darwin through your court appeal?
We are still trying to get him back but since the matter is still being reviewed for appeal purposes, I cannot make any further comments regarding chances of winning.

Do you feel that monkeys such as Darwin make good pets for people in Canada?
Monkeys are not pets for everyone. But if the owner is very dedicated, loving, educated about primate needs and ready and willing to learn, then a monkey can be more than a pet — it can become part of one's family. Monkeys are intelligent and it is untrue that all monkeys are aggressive. Some monkeys work as licensed waiters in Japan, while others are trained and work as helpers for the disabled.

Visit metronews.ca to watch a video of monkeys working as waiters in Japan.

Do you have any advice for other people who might be considering trying to acquire monkeys or other animals that are deemed exotic or foreign to Canada?
If you are not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, then please don't get one. However, if you do and you are able to earn the love and respect of your pet monkey, a pet monkey can be one of the greatest companions you can have in your life.

As for other exotic pets, I own an African Grey parrot and a Scarlet Macaw and they are equally great pets given their intelligence, but again, they need a lot of attention and care and one has to be able to afford expensive toys, food and supplements on an ongoing basis.

Have an adventure with Darwin

Darwin's Ikea shopping trip may be over in real life, but it continues online in the form of a video game which you can find at ikeamonkeyshirt.com. Barnabas Wornoff, an animation professor at Toronto's Seneca College, took about a week to create the game with a group of former students. Players can control the shearling coat-wearing monkey as it wanders through the parking lot in search of Allen keys, pegs and other parts needed to build a Billy wall shelf, all the while dodging rogue shopping carts and Ikea customers. Wornoff said the monkey dances when the game is completed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mexico. Keystone pipeline was on mind, if not lips at Harper meet-and-greet

Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with leaders from the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline Wednesday — just hours before he was set to again press U.S. President Barack Obama to approve the controversial project.

Harper's meeting with TransCanada officials occurred in Mexico City before he was to travel to the neighbouring city of Toluca for the so-called Three Amigos summit with Obama and Mexico's Enrique Peña Nieto.

The word "Keystone" was never uttered in the brief photo-op, but Harper spoke briefly of the opportunities for Canadian firms in the Mexico's resources sector, which has recently been opened up to private sector investment.

"We're here to talk about what's happening in Mexico," Harper told those assembled in the 14th-floor boardroom of TransCanada's Mexican headquarters.

"As many of you probably know, there's major reforms taking place particularly in the energy sector and this is creating great opportunity for Canadian companies. And so we're here to discuss some of those opportunities."

Mexico wants more Canadian foreign investment not just in its resource sector, but in infrastructure, among others.

No progress on the long-stalled plan to link Alberta's oilsands with the southern United States was expected to emerge Wednesday, since neither leader is expected to deviate from their stated positions on Keystone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nebraska

The Keystone XL pipeline has been dealt yet another setback — this time in a Nebraska courtroom.

- A district court has torn up a state law that could have been used to force landowners to allow the pipeline on their property.

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.24¢ (-1.08¢)

TSX 14,119.73 (+42.26)

OIL $103.31 US (+$0.88)

GOLD $1,320.40 US (-$4)

Natural gas: $6.10 US (+$0.54)
Dow Jones: 16,040.56 (-89.84)

Electronic currency

Ivory tower gets lesson in Bitcoin, with $10,000 gift

In what may be the first college donation of the new electronic currency, a Bitcoin entrepreneur has donated $10,000 US worth of the digital money to a Washington college.

The University of Puget Sound said on Wednesday it had received a donation of 14.5 coins of the currency.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuts sow seeds of discontent among Greek farmers

A farmer shouts slogans during a protest outside the Greek parliament against government tax policies in Athens on Wednesday. About 4,000 people, including civil servant unions, took part in the peaceful demonstration outside the House of Parliament. Greece's conservative-led government has committed to continue spending cuts and economic reforms in exchange for billions of euros in international rescue loans. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our true patriot love for Facebook

O (boy) Canada.

With glowing faces ... from our smartphones we stand on guard for the social network

Canada was one of the first countries to go completely crazy for Facebook and now the social network is saying we're leading the charge with mobile usage, too.

There are 19 million Canadians who access Facebook at least once a month and 14 million who log in every single day, says Jordan Banks, the head of Facebook Canada.

Those numbers haven't really changed since the summer, when Banks last gave an update on user counts, but mobile is growing.

The number of users who log in with a phone or tablet at least once a month is now at 15 million, up about 15 per cent from 13 million. And the number of mobile users accessing Facebook daily is up about six per cent to 10 million, from 9.4 million in August.

"Essentially we're getting 50 per cent of Canadian (Internet users) on Facebook every day and the exciting part for us as marketers is that when you look at the composition of how those people are accessing Facebook, it's more increasingly on a mobile device than ever before," says Banks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New national past time?

"We're seeing people check their phones 20 times a day for Facebook — status updates and news feed posts and checking in — so it's really become like a Canadian reflex, if you will, to access your phone, whether you're at a bus stop or a hockey game or sitting at home watching TV."

Jordan Banks, head of Facebook Canada

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OLYMPICS BRING OUT THE WORST

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Olympic officials love to wax eloquent about how sports can help us celebrate humanity as one, as can be illustrated in this history of the Games:

1896: The modern Olympic Games are created to promote world peace.

1897: World peace declared.

This timeline, though exhaustive, is not wholly accurate. In fact, the Olympics solve society's problems with only the same proficiency that pop songs alleviate world hunger.

While I won't claim to know the hearts of the amazing athletes, I can talk about the average sports fans' humanity during these Olympics in Sochi. Their emotions are not always the Olympian ideal.

Rage: Sports always attracts angry fans: hockey fans who would gladly dismember a 14-year-old linesman; baseball fans apoplectic about strike calls they can't possibly see; MMA fans who fill in most of evolution's missing links. But the Olympics teach us that the most terrifying creature of all is the figure skating fan who is convinced their favourite skaters were stiffed.

It's satisfying in a way. People who mock me for yelling at the TV during a Bruins game positively have a Salchow every four years because someone on Team Canada got "robbed." It's an Olympic tradition. This wouldn't happen if Olympic figure skating had fighting like the North American version, but that's a debate for later.

Fear: What do you suppose is the hardest job in the world? Doctor? Air traffic controller? Olympian? No, the Olympics prove time and again that the hardest job is creating a mascot that is not a horrifying abomination.

It's a life rule. There are no funny clowns, no sexy feet and no mascots that will not haunt your dreams. The Athens mascots appeared to be phalluses wearing coloured condoms, perhaps to laud the birth of civilization. The London mascots were one-eyed demon creatures, probably to promote the city's Olympian level of CCTV cameras.

At first the Sochi bear seemed like a fool-proof idea. Who doesn't like teddy bears? However, the version at the opening ceremonies looked like a drunken uncle who should delete his Internet browsing history more often. Meanwhile, the version that stalks Olympic venues almost looks like an everyday bear mascot — except that he has cold, dead shark eyes. He will have children leaving their night lights on until at least the 2016 Summer Games. And who knows what monstrosity we might be faced with then?

Schadenfreude: If my workplace and favourite bar are any indication, two things always get big cheers from crowds at the Olympics:

1) A Canadian hockey player scores a goal.

2) An athlete from another country falls over.

The sport might be one fans had not heard of 10 minutes ago — Ladies' Super-G Bobsled Cross — but if there's a chance at gold, we want our opponents crushed. And, if necessary, their pelvises.

In short, the Olympics aren't the best of humanity, on either side of the TV screen. They're just … humanity, which includes braggarts, fools and outright villains, to go along with the kind-hearted, the wise and the heroes.

And despite my cynical take, I still believe in heroes. After all, somebody has to slay the damn bear.

ZOOM

All that glitters isn't gold

ANNE OLLILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finnish reindeer dabbed with paint

A reindeer is seen with fluorescent antlers after a test in which Finnish herders dabbed it with fluorescent paint. Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover — the latest attempt to halt some of the thousands of road deaths of the roaming caribou in the wilds of Finland.

Anne Ollila, of the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association, says the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with various fluorescent dyes to see how the animals react and whether the paints are resistant to the harsh Arctic climate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roaming free

200,000

If successful, animals with glittering antlers will be free to roam Lapland — a vast, deserted area in northern Finland where herders tend to some 200,000 reindeer.

Reflective tape

- The Finnish Reindeer Association says reflectors and reflective tape have proven unsuccessful as reindeer have torn them off — and road signs warning drivers of roaming reindeer often are stolen by tourists as souvenirs.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Looks like oversharing social media users are learning from their mishaps as a wave of apps touting online anonymity are quietly creeping into cyberspace. Users wanting to publicly praise or put down that pretty girl, berate their boss or wax poetic have carved out online spaces to do so without having to worry about said pretty girl, boss, etc.

ISTOCK IMAGES

Whisper:
Posts run the gamut from guilty pleasures to deep thoughts (#ThereIsNoProof) in this Tumblr-like confessional space.

Shrtwv:
Location-based sharing means you share your anonymous thoughts, photos, etc., with other Shrtwv users in the same vicinity (no, this is not meant to be the latest Grindr)

Secret:
Like other social media sites, you're still sharing your "secrets" with your pals, but you get to do so incognito.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The idea of Trudeau rolling papers was originally the Cons' plan to disrupt the Liberals. Do they help or hinder Trudeau's image?

@Russell_Barth: the irony of these papers (AND the #cpc's mad assertions) is that Justin isn't *actually* going to legalize #pot

@chlobotxo: i think it's hilarious. It helps by showing the Cons are traditional bullies

@ac_awesome: So instead of saying he flip-flops, opponents are accusing him of Zigzags.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

metro
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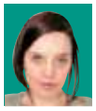
No waste for this Dirty Duck

Bright idea.
Line of soap created using animal fats donated by restaurants

Details

For more info, go to dirtyducksoap.ca



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

With the help of their professors, the students from Algonquin College's School of Hospitality and Tourism are trying to redefine waste in the culinary industry.

They have created Dirty Duck Soap — a line of soaps made from donated animal fats.

The driving force behind it all is Chef David Fairbanks, a member of the culinary management faculty at Algonquin, who came up with the idea a few years ago.

"In essence, quite a few faculty members here got sick and tired of seeing all the waste — animal fats, the renderings," he explains.

"In our industry, that is always just tossed away and it's really unfortunate because, when you think about what actually happened to the animals that we're using, we shouldn't be wasting anything. This is all out of respect for the animal and using it to its fullest capacity."

In keeping with the School of Hospitality and Tourism's sustainability initiatives, all of the fat used to make the soap is donated by local restaurants. Fairbanks estimates that the average restaurant throws out 10-20 litres of fat a week.

"That's considerable because Waste Management has to come and pick that up, which costs the restaurant money. So, what we do is contact some local restaurants and we crowd source our fat."

He says the restaurants who do donate are happy to do so because they don't have to pay to have it hauled away and they get the added bonus of disposing of their waste in a more earth-friendly manner.

It's also been helpful for the students, who benefit directly from the proceeds of their soap sales.

"Our mandate is that 100 per cent of the profits go back into an emergency fund for the students. Life happens — your safety shoes wear our, textbooks get dropped in puddles, everyone is tight on cash. That's what it's there for," says Fairbanks.

The science behind the soap is fairly straightforward — just combine water, fat (or oil) and sodium hydroxide. As for the smell? It's surprisingly good (and I'm a vegetarian!) and not meaty at all.

"I think people perceive it to smell that way. The sodium hydroxide tends to rob a lot of the flavour so you don't really smell a lot of beef, pork, chicken or duck. It's augmented afterwards because of the essential oils that are added to it — we add clove nutmeg, orange or almond — so that really enhances the characteristics of it."

David Fairbanks is the driving force behind Dirty Duck. CONTRIBUTED

SCENE

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The takedown of the mask of Georges

Documentary. Former UFC champion reveals his obsessive compulsive disorder, how it drove him to succeed, and what makes him tick in new film

STEVE GOW
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One would expect it'd take a lot to embarrass someone who gets paid millions to beat people up for a living but ultimate fighting champion Georges St-Pierre admits blushing when seeing his rural father fake a more esteemed French accent in the latest documentary about his life.

"A lot of scenes like this I would've changed but (producers) didn't want to," admitted St-Pierre during a recent interview to promote the documentary Takedown: The DNA of GSP.

"There were a lot of things I didn't want to show (but) this is not my movie; I didn't decide what to show; the (filmmakers) decided."

Premiering this Thursday at select theatres Canada-wide, the slick documentary that covers the French Canadian's rise to UFC champ, his fateful knee injury and stunning comeback is also very personal — illustrated by GSP's own acceptance that he suffers from obsessive compulsive disorder.

"My obsessive compulsive problem that I have (is) good when you're an athlete," said St-Pierre.

"I'm crazy but that's what you need to be champion in the sport.

"All my life I've been (focused on) how I can make myself a better martial artist — everything I've learned in my life has been for that purpose."

Georges St-Pierre credits his success in mixed martial arts with his obsessive-compulsive disorder. CONTRIBUTED

Certainly those habits are on display in Takedown as fans learn how sleep deprivation, avoiding sidewalk cracks and even heavily concentrated fury has turned GSP into a remarkable mixed martial artist.

In fact, the unpretentious pugilist insists even vacating the title after a controversial win in November was a response to his own affliction.

"I stopped because mentally, my health was in jeopardy," said St-Pierre.

"I've never been a victim in my life," he adds.

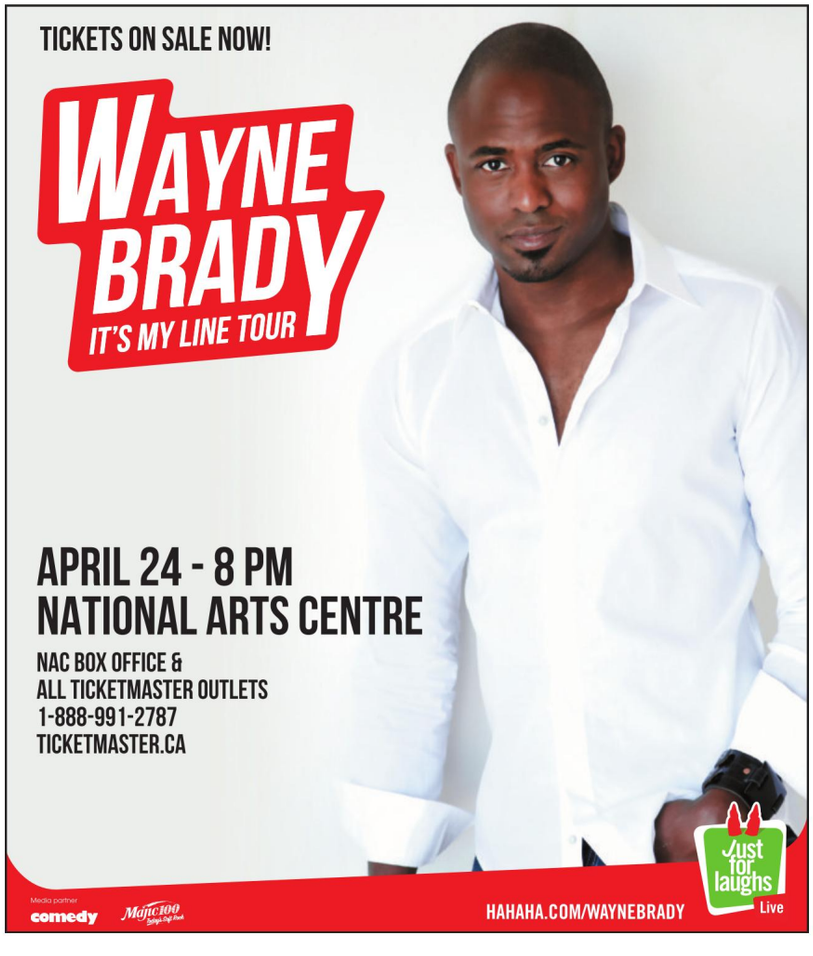
"Everything I've done, I did it by choice. "Nobody ever forced me to fight. I did it because I wanted to and that's the same reason why I'm taking a break — because I want to."

Georges on Georges

- **Georges St-Pierre on revealing his obsessive compulsive disorder in the film.** "It's kind of boring to be a normal person," said St-Pierre. "I surround myself with crazy people and I'm crazy myself so it makes us fun...we all have the ingredients for a good movie."
- **You don't have to like fighting.** "I don't force you to like what I do for a living, I just don't want to have to fight for the legitimacy of my sport" said St-Pierre. "That's all I ask, is to not denigrate the sport."

Watch it

- **Takedown: The DNA of GSP screens in Cineplex theatres across Canada on February 20, 22 and 24.**



Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wedding fireworks for Katy and John?

Katy Perry is sending the gossip world into a tizzy by sporting the same diamond ring on a very suspicious finger for the past few days. The first time, we all chalked it up to her being fashionable — but then the singer had the audacity to wear the art-deco-influenced ring yet again at the Elle Style Awards on Tuesday in London. "What does it mmmmeeee-aaaannnnn?" your brain is undoubtedly asking, since we are all conditioned to be concerned with this for some reason. We wish we knew — so far both the Perry and John Mayer camps are being mum on the situation. One thing is for sure: The only way she could troll us any harder is if she started wearing a fake baby bump.

Ellen and Portia don't need a ring to prove their love

Ellen DeGeneres is eager to put to rest rumours circulating in some tabloids that her marriage to Portia De Rossi is on the rocks. "The tabloids had a photo of Portia not wearing her wedding ring. She goes, 'I didn't wear it because when I ride horses and I'm holding the reins, it gives me a blister,'" DeGeneres explains to People magazine. "The truth is — and this is corny — I fall more in love with Portia all the time. I really do. She surprises me all the time. It's what anyone experiences when you find that person that gets you."

Ellen DeGeneres

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Hey LaBeouf, why don't you #STARTCREATING your own stuff?

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

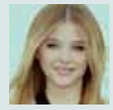
Shia LaBeouf has been all over the tabloids and the blogs and the Twitter lately. But for those who don't follow celebrity gossip on any medium, Shia has them covered too — they just have to look up into the sky.

LaBeouf has taken to skywriting for the third time, hiring planes to write "#STARTCREATING" in the sky above Los Angeles, according to E! Online. His previous messages were "I am sorry Daniel Clowes" and "#STOPCREATING," both in January.

It's great to have Shia's permission to start making stuff. I hope he follows his own advice, since he's never created anything in particular. LaBoeuf's meltdown/art project/generous subsidy to L.A.'s skywriting industry began in December, when his short film, HowardCantour.com, was revealed to be a ripoff of a Daniel Clowes comic, Justin M. Damiano. Since then, he's tweeted a slew of plagiarized quotes and apologies, hired the aforementioned skywriters, and last week held an "art installation" in which he sat in a room with a paper bag over his head reading "I am not famous anymore" while weeping — which some would say was a ripoff of Marina Abromović's The Artist is Present.

In case you can't tell, I am heartily sick of this kid — he ripped an artist off, got caught, and he's been trying to reposition his screw-up as art ever since. I would rather see Justin Bieber get an Oscar than hear another word from LaBeouf on the subject.

Twitter



@ChloeGMoretz
strangest thing just happened to my phone it wouldn't take a charge so i did a full restart and bingo.. charging.. weird.

@NiallOfficial
First time we have all been together for a while now! lookin forward t seeing the lads ! #BRITs2014

@josswhedon
Stairs are so serious

Patrick Stewart

Patrick Stewart has a gay old time with Guardian gaffe

At least Patrick Stewart has a decent sense of humour. The former Star Trek: the Next Generation star was misidentified as gay by the Guardian in an article about X-Men co-star Ellen Page's recent coming out. "The third paragraph originally said, 'Some gay people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart, think Page's coming out speech is newsworthy.' This should have read, 'Some people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart,'" a statement from the newspaper read. Stewart, who married longtime girlfriend Sunny Ozell in September, took it in stride, posting to Twitter, "It makes for a nice change. At least I didn't wake up to the Internet telling me I was dead again."

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LIFE 3

The runway midway

The fashion industry's finest have flocked to New York and London these past two weeks as part of Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Month. Before they pick up their passports and jet away on the Paris and Milan legs of the journey, here's a taste of what Metro's gurus of glam have witnessed from fashion's front lines thus far.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tommy Hilfiger (NYC)

The first look? Surprise, surprise, it's plaid. An olive parka, check dress and hiking boots opens the lineup of rugged, outdoorsy looks. The vaguely vintage-flavoured duffle coats, shearling jackets, chunky sweaters, Fair Isle knits and fleece dresses have a sporty athleticism to them that imply Tommy's girls do more than sip hot chocolate inside a lodge.

Major trends: Blanket references in the form of dresses, skirts and coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Durable, classic winter wear that really does marry fashion and function.

Marc by Marc Jacobs (NYC)

The autumn/winter '14 girl is all flamboyant sportiness, dressed for a club night in a mix of ninja and BMX gear. Plus all of the sneaker comebacks we've seen in the past year were rendered forgettable thanks to a single shoe in Crayola shades of red and blue that is part raver, part spaceman.

The major trends: Plays on volume — blanket-style wraps, layering and wide leg trousers.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Judging by my social media feeds, the shoes were the most memorable takeaway from the show. The more "out there" the sneaker the better.

Bora Aksu (London)

After a handful of monochrome skirted looks, colour appears in the form of Barbie pink. Think Lolita-meets-Victorian-meets-plastic-fantastic. And get ready to embrace that horrible '90s sequin stretch fabric: it's back, sliced into jackets, waistlines and fishtail pencil skirts. Ponchos and capes are popular up top — only, "floatier" than we've seen them before. Here they're more like mosquito nets. Pretty ones, mind you.

The playlist: Lively flamenco with a Carla Bruni interlude.

The key trends: Pink, ponchos, A-line skirts

Issa (London)

The strength, and what unites this collection, with its varying motifs of stamped flowers, bulbous knits and lattice prints, is the size of it all. Everything is big, from the wafting, blanket-like coats that much of the audience is already wearing to the Balenciaga-esque rounded sleeves on outerwear and tops. My standout piece — the wackiest of all the wearable Issa fare — is a zigzag printed monochrome jacket with perfectly curved shoulders.

The major trends: Ponchos and oversized, rounded coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Silhouette is going to factor into your buying purchases more than usual.

Vivienne Westwood (London)

This show was about vintage Vivienne Westwood Red Label. Even the colour palette is true to the brand name, with a tongue-in-cheek heart-shaped suit. The looks were positively pared-down: a nostalgic retrospective of eras gone by with headscarves, roomy overcoats, and those ubiquitous Westwood cocktail dresses — all very commercially viable with enough of a dash of the Dame's kook.

The scene: Vivienne Westwood's faithful friends.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Granny chic with headscarves and oversized practical coats.

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Rain, rain, come our way!

Raincoats are bold and bright style beacons in this dark, snow-covered season. Beat the winter blues by investing in a soon-to-be-overused colour splash coat.

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Stutterheim
raincoat, $328, matchesfashion.com

Elka Klitmoller
raincoat in red, $176, asos.com

Christopher Raeburn
printed raincoat, $1,045, mrporter.com

MIA x Versus
printed trench jacket, $958, brownsfashion.com

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Kerry

Age: 27

Occupation: Co-founder, Rockford Peach

What she's wearing:
Old pilots shearling coat I bought a couple years ago in Kensington (inspired by my Dad), old polo sweater that was cropped, All Saints pants, Stuart Weitzman boots, vintage belt and bag.

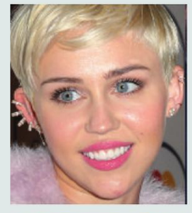
Her inspiration:
I dress with instinct, which could very well start with the music that I wake up to. The truth is I like anything that has lived a little bit; clothes that tell a story or move me somehow, and a little oversize never hurt anyone. Imperfection is wonderful. There's nothing wrong with an unbuttoned shirt, messy hair, or that hole in the armpit from an ex-lovers old T-shirt. Oh and smiling is key!

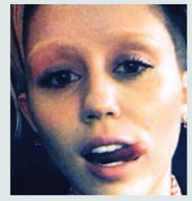
THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Trends Report

Bleached blonde eyebrows may seem odd, but the look was all over the runway at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week this month and even on raunchy popstar Miley Cyrus. Go online to Trends Report to see which top designer opted for this runway look, which also had one reality TV star modeling a nipple-baring top.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report





BAYSHORE
FASHION FILE
BAYSHORE SHOPPING CENTRE ANSWERS YOUR FASHION & BEAUTY QUESTIONS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR UPDATING A SIMPLE DRESS FOR THE UPCOMING SPRING SEASON? - R.O.

A: Scarves are making a big comeback fro spring! With a simple twist, you can add a splash of colour to any outfit. Switching them up will keep your wardrobe looking fresh and new, for very little expense. Keep a couple with you on your purse, or tie one around the strap to keep it handy. H&M and Zara both have a great selection. Pick one up in every colour!

Q: WITH THE WARMER WEATHER APPROACHING, WHERE CAN I FIND THE LATEST IN SWIMWEAR? – C.S.

A: Bring on the sun! This season's top looks for bathing suits can be broken down into 3 categories: Vintage Inspired, Digital Prints, and Grecian Goddess. For the vintage look, try tops with a sweetheart neckline, and high-waisted bottoms in gingham or floral prints. Digital prints have no real rules. Try them in abstracts, animal prints or even cityscapes! You can never go wrong when channeling you inner Greek goddess. Draping and gathering works for every figure type. All of these looks can be found at Bikini Village!

Q: WHAT'S THE GENERAL RULE IN TERMS OF WHEN I CAN START WEARING MY SPRING WARDROBE, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY MY SPRING HEELS? – N.K.

A: Spring will soon be upon us, with the promise of all the latest fashions! While we can't wait to get into our spring wardrobe and heels: there isn't a set rule interms of date. A stylishly dressed woman, dresses appropriately for the occasion and temperature. Start with adding a lighter top under a blazer, and introducing brighter colours – gradually transitioning into a full spring wardrobe. Once all the snow is off the ground, and the sun is shining, you can break out your Manolos and Jimmy Choos!

ANGIE RUSSELL | MARKETING DIRECTOR, BAYSHORE

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Make a bedroom you want to lie in

Snooze control. Create a cocoon that's perfect for you with designer tips on breaking the usual decorating rules

We're told a well-designed master bedroom should be an oasis of romantic calm. It's also supposed to be the practical place where you store clothing and get a good night's sleep, and it may also be where you watch television, pay bills and even set up a home office.

That's a lot to ask of a single room.

On the bright side, says interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, you have plenty of decorating freedom.

"Since bedrooms are all about self-expression and comforts," he says, "you can break the rules as much as you want."

We've asked Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions, and two other design experts — Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design and Molly Luetkemeyer of M. Design Interiors — for tips on breaking those rules with style to create the ultimate master bedroom.

Only the calmest colours

Forget trendy shades or your favourite bright colours. Burnham advises that you stick to a soothing palette of ivory and white, evoking a luxury hotel room. "You can layer colour into that if you want to," she says.

If your idea of peace and quiet involves deeper colours, Flynn suggests navy blues or black-brown tones.

And if you really want bolder colour or patterns, Luetkemeyer recommends using a single pattern throughout your bedroom.

This "en suite" look involves using the same fabric for curtains and bedspread, and even covering the walls in the same pattern.

"Even a busy pattern won't feel too chaotic if you're consistent" in using it throughout the room, she says.

Big beds in small rooms

Think your medium-size or small bedroom can't handle a gorgeous four-poster bed? Burnham says a bed like that can serve as "a statement piece" that brings lots of style.

It actually frees up a lot of space, because you won't need any extra decorative pieces of furniture for pizzazz.

Flynn agrees, as long as the bedroom isn't extremely small and the nightstands are in proportion.

One of his pet peeves is a large bed flanked by tiny tables, which can make the tables look like they belong in a dollhouse.

Soften everything

These designers say they are seeing a trend toward upholstered beds and headboards, and even upholstery fabric used on walls.

"It's this idea that you're being completely cocooned and buffered from the world," Luetkemeyer says. For some clients, she has also upholstered the inside of armoires or other storage pieces to create a complete sense of softness.

With softness in mind, Flynn suggests using more than one layer of window treatment: "I usually layer black-out shades with custom, pleated drapery panels," he says. "This softens the hard edges of the room, helps with noise control and also allows the homeowner to sleep in as late as they want."

If you're worried that all that softness will make the room too feminine, Burnham suggests adding just a few sharper, cleaner lines for balance. Choose sleek, mid-century vintage lamps to place on either side of an upholstered bed. Or opt for a dresser with simple, clean lines rather than a piece that's ornate and curvy.

Designer Brian Patrick Flynn layered his windows with black-out shades from Texton and custom drapery panels lined with blackout liner in his own bedroom in Los Angeles, to help control noise from busy, nightlife-centric Sunset Boulevard and light from the bright California sun.

ZEKE RUELAS/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banish electronics

It may sound radical, but Luetkemeyer hears from clients now that they're ready to remove the TV and all gadgets from their bedrooms. "People are saying, 'I'm in such overload all day long, and I'm reachable within an inch of myself. I want to have one place where it's really mine.'"

Burnham sees the beginnings of a similar trend, though for many people the habit of checking email in bed or watching TV before they go to sleep is a hard one to kick.

If you have a desk in your bedroom, consider relocating it. And try plugging in your phone and other gadgets somewhere else in your home at night so you won't be tempted to check them.

Pendants and sconces instead of table lamps

Chandeliers are often used in dining rooms and entryways to add glamour and drama. Flynn's tip? They "work just as well in bedrooms."

"I often install pendant lights over nightstands instead of using table lamps," he says, "especially if the headboard is tall and dramatic. Whenever possible, I try to use sculptural pendants which introduce interesting shapes to the room and I always, 100 per cent of the time, install them on dimmers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gettin' cozy

"It's this idea that you're being completely cocooned and buffered from the world."

Molly Luetkemeyer, design expert
on the growing trend of bedroom upholstery

Style on a budget

Flynn suggests using 30-inch-tall dressers or chests instead of traditional nightstands: "I'll hit up flea markets and find two different chests with very similar proportions," he says, using these less expensive pieces to flank a more expensive custom headboard or platform bed.

- Luetkemeyer agrees that closed storage at bedside is a wise move for most people. It keeps necessities handy, but hides clutter to make your sleeping area look organized even when it isn't.

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Stefano serves a cutlet above the rest

This recipe serves four. PHOTOS LEILA ASHTARI

"Veal cutlets were in regular dinner rotation at home when I was young," writes Stefano Faita in his book In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita. "I was always so amazed at how quickly my mom made them and got them on the table — they cook up in no time.

"Serve your cutlets with a light side dish, such as sautéed cherry tomatoes (the recipe is right here!), or put a cutlet on a bun with some marinated artichokes. Yum!"

Ingredients

Breaded Veal Cutlets
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) fresh or dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tsp (10 ml) chopped fresh herbs, such as sage or rosemary
- 4 large veal cutlets, pounded 1/4 inch (5 mm) thick
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil

Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) vine-ripened cherry tomatoes
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sugar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each chopped fresh Italian parsley, marjoram, thyme

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

1. To make the Breaded Veal Cutlets: Prepare a breading station by arranging 3 shallow dishes or pie plates with the following: flour in the first; eggs beaten with milk in the second; and bread crumbs, Parmesan and herbs stirred together in the third.

2. Season veal with salt and pepper. Dredge cutlets first in flour, then in egg mixture and lastly in bread crumb mixture.

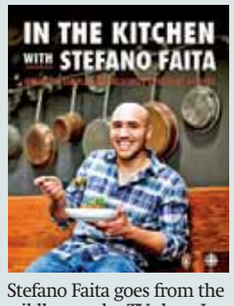
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter with oil. When oil is hot, add cutlets and brown on each side, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

4. While cutlets are cooking, make the Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes: In a large sauté pan, melt butter over medium-high heat. When butter is golden brown, add tomatoes. Sprinkle them with sugar and season with salt and pepper. Increase heat to high and sauté tomatoes, stirring gently, until they start to soften and skins begin to wrinkle, about 5 minutes. Add the parsley, marjoram and thyme, mix well and remove from heat.

5. Serve cutlets with Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes. **FROM IN THE KITCHEN WITH STEFANO FAITA BY STEFANO FAITA. COPYRIGHT CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION/STEFANO FAITA INC., 2013. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF PENGUIN CANADA BOOKS INC.**

Cookbook of the Week

Effortless meals



Stefano Faita goes from the wildly popular TV show In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita to an easy-to-follow book of the same name. The collection includes Faita's favourite recipes (think Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Mango Cabbage Slaw, Cajun Home Fries and more) from the series as well as extra trips. The book covers everything from breakfast and dinner to snacks, salads, desserts and more. **METRO**

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SPORTS 4

Humph Day in Sochi

Women's bobsled.
Canadian duo successfully defends its title won in Vancouver

Canada's Kaillie Humphries, left, and Heather Moyse celebrate winning the gold medal in women's bobsled at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, on Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kaillie Humphries arrived at the start house for her final bobsled run at the Sochi Games not knowing how much time she needed to make up to catch the leaders.

Her brakeman, Heather Moyse, knew but wasn't saying. She wanted her pilot to worry about her own run and not the clock.

"I just looked at her and I said, 'It's possible,'" Moyse said. "That's all Kaillie needed to know, that the gap wasn't closed but it was possible."

Humphries visualized the 17-turn track in her mind and set out to nail another consistent run. She delivered just that Wednesday night and it was enough to give them a second straight Olympic title, the first to achieve that goal.

"When I don't know times, I mean, ignorance is bliss," Humphries said.

The Canada 1 sled had a gap of 11-100ths of a second to close entering the final run. Moyse delivered with a strong push at the start, then Humphries took over from there.

Both were elated at the finish and satisfied knowing they did everything they could.

"For both of us to know we pushed the hardest we could have possibly pushed, I drove the track the very best that I knew how, when we got out of the sled on that fourth run both her and I — without even having to really say anything — knew that we had done everything in our power," Humphries said.

With at least a silver locked up, they had a nervous two-minute wait in the finish area as Elana Meyers and Lauryn Williams completed their final run.

"I never wish bad on people but I was thinking, 'Just make a few mistakes, please,'" Humphries said.

The pressure seemed to get to the Americans, who had a few wobbles down the Sanki Sliding Center track and came up one-10th of a second short.

It would be gold once again for the Canadians, who were underdogs when they won at the Vancouver Games four years ago but favourites this time around.

Humphries, from Calgary, and Moyse, from Summerside, P.E.I., finished with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds. Meyers and Williams were second in 3:50.71.

The United States also won bronze, with Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans finishing a full second off the lead in 3:51.61. Edmonton's Jenny Ciochetti and Chelsea Valois of Zenon Park, Sask., were 13th in the Canada 2 sled in 3:54.49.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Winning gold is amazing, but walking away satisfied is better. After the third run I knew that if we did the business we could be on top."

Kaillie Humphries on overcoming a time deficit to win the women's bobsled.

Curling gold medal within Jacobs' reach

Canada skip Brad Jacobs throws a rock during a semifinal curling match against China on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brad Jacobs, Ryan Fry, E.J. Harnden and Ryan Harnden allowed themselves a few minutes — and just a few — to revel in securing an Olympic medal in men's curling for Canada.

The Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., team knew after its 10-6 semifinal win Wednesday over China the glow was finite. Canadians are as demanding of their curlers as they are of their hockey players at the Winter Olympics.

There is a gold medal for the taking Friday. Canada must elbow aside two-time world champion David Murdoch of Britain to get it and will start the game with hammer.

"To get another medal for all of Team Canada is a great feeling, but at the same time, we want to come out and we want to get that gold," Jacobs said.

Rejuvenated from a two-day break, the Canadians unveiled their various weapons — finesse shots and hits — for their best game of the tournament against China.

"There's a little bit of brilliance left in us for that final game," second Harnden said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Double-gold hope

Canada is chasing double curling gold in Sochi. Jennifer Jones' Winnipeg rink meets Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson in Thursday's championship game.

- Canadian downed Britain's Eve Muirhead 6-4 in their semifinal earlier Wednesday.

Caroline Ouellette is one of three Canadian players who are in pursuit of their fourth Olympic gold medal. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Seasoned Canadians to face off with speedy U.S.

Women's hockey. Canuck squad will rely on leadership of vets when they take on rivals

To win a fourth straight Olympic gold medal, the Canadian women's hockey team must leverage its big-game experience up front to overcome the superior speed of the United States.

Canada's dozen forwards have a combined 18 previous appearances at the Winter Olympics among them compared to seven among the American forwards.

On defence, previous Winter Games experience is equal between the two countries. Both sides possess seasoned goaltenders.

Thursday's final at the Bolshoy Ice Dome is about executing in a vice of pressure for both countries.

The U.S. wants to reclaim the gold it won in 1998 and this year's team is young and relentless.

If there is a crack in their armour, it was revealed in Canada's 3-2 victory in the preliminary round. Taking a 1-0 lead into the third period, the Americans lost their composure when Canada equalized early in the second and pulled ahead less than two minutes later.

So it will be up to three-time gold medallists Caroline Ouellette, Hayley Wickenheiser and Jayna Hefford, as well as third-time Olympians Meghan Agosta-Marciano and Gillian Apps to shepherd Canada through the defining moment or moments of the gold-medal game.

"I can bring some things to the table, but don't kid yourself," coach Kevin Dineen said. "I'm going to lean a little bit on Caroline Ouellette, Jayna Hefford, Hayley Wickenheiser and Gillian Apps. Great players who have been in an Olympics or two. They've sat in this seat before."

Canada's win over the U.S. in the round-robin ended a four-game losing streak against the Americans, but it doesn't necessarily give Canada the upper hand Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Who to watch

A quick look at the players in the women's hockey final between Canada and the U.S.:

Canada

- **Marie-Philip Poulin.** Scored both of Canada's goals in the 2010 final.
- **Hayley Wickenheiser.** Six-time Olympian proving in this tournament she hasn't lost a step.
- **Catherine Ward.** Canada needs her poise and puck skills on an inexperienced defence.

United States

- **Amanda Kessel.** Sister of Toronto Maple Leafs forward Phil Kessel and linemates Brianna Decker and Kendall Coyne lead the tournament in scoring.
- **Hilary Knight.** Forward was the best player for the U.S. in four straight pre-Sochi wins over Canada.
- **Jessie Vetter.** The U.S. has beaten Canada in four of the last five world championship finals with Vetter in net.

Biathlon

Bjoerndalen sets new winter medal mark with 13

In a fitting way to mark becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian ever, Ole Einar Bjoerndalen ensured his record 13th medal was gold Wednesday when he helped Norway win the first Olympic mixed relay in biathlon.

Bjoerndalen broke the total medals record he previously shared with retired cross-country skiing great Bjoern Daehlie, and also matched the fellow Norwegian's mark of eight golds. Bjoerndalen won gold earlier at the Sochi Olympics in the men's sprint biathlon.

Daehlie won eight gold, four silver and no bronze medals; Bjoerndalen's haul is now 8-4-1.

The 40-year-old Bjoerndalen can win another medal in the last men's biathlon event in Sochi, the 4x7.5K relay on Saturday.

Norway's victory came one day after Bjoerndalen missed out on a medal chance in the 15K mass start event, when he was in fourth position before missing four targets in his final shooting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Popping the question. Sens pair fill Sochi void with another pressure situation

Bobby Ryan made the most of his Olympic break after he was left off Team USA.

The Ottawa Senators winger proposed to longtime girlfriend Danielle Rhodes on the Eiffel Tower while on vacation in Paris.

"It was just a quick 15-second, normal proposal," said Ryan. "She said yes and then it was so windy we had to get off anyway because it was too cold to stay up there."

Ryan said the most nerve-wracking part of the proposal was getting the ring through security without Rhodes seeing it.

"I had to sneak it through security and tuck it in my scarf when we were going through."

Ryan had a little help from teammate Jason Spezza to help ensure the proposal was a surprise. Ryan had given the ring to Spezza for safekeeping and to ensure Rhodes didn't come across it.

"I was the ring bearer for a while," said Spezza with a laugh. "It was good to give it back. Took the pressure off me from losing it."

Now that the ring has been given, Ryan said his work is done and he will let his fiancée deal with the wedding details.

Senators winger Bobby Ryan
CLAUS ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

"I'm out now," said Ryan laughing. "I told her once I handed that over, 'The rest is on you; just tell me when and where to be.'"

Ryan was not the only one to pop the question as Cory Conacher also proposed to girlfriend Shaynen Chadwick while in Turks and Caicos.

"I did it on the beach and then went for a nice dinner afterwards," said Conacher. "I think she was surprised because I did it early in the trip and she wasn't expecting that. It was a great night for us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
United States of America	7	5	11	23
Russian Federation	6	9	7	22
Netherlands	6	7	9	22
Norway	9	4	7	20
Canada	**5**	**9**	**4**	**18**
Germany	8	3	4	15

WHAT CANADA DID

WEDNESDAY

ALPINE SKIING
Men's Giant Slalom - Trevor Philp of Calgary was the top Canadian after the two runs, placing 25th (two minutes 49.55 seconds, +4.26 seconds). Phil Brown of Toronto was 29th (2:49.91) and Morgan Pridy of Whistler, B.C., was 33rd (2:51.96).

BIATHLON
2x6km Women + 2x7.5 km Men Mixed Relay - The Canadian team of Megan Imrie (Falcon Lake, Man.), Rosanna Crawford (Canmore, Alta.), Brendan Green (Hay River, N.W.T.) and Scott Perras (Regina), finished 12th with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and 27.7 seconds, four minutes and 10.7 seconds behind gold medallist Norway.

BOBSLEIGH
Women's - Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside. P.E.I.), successfully defended their **gold medal** with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds, erasing a 0.23 deficit going into the final two runs to beat United States 1 by a tenth-of-a-second. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) placed 13th (3:54.49).

CROSS-COUNTRY
Ladies' Team Sprint ClassicSemifinal - Daria Gaiazova (Banff, Alta.) and Perianne Jones (Almonte, Ont.) were fifth out of the nine teams in their group and did not advance.
Men's Team Sprint Classic Semifinals - Alex Harvey (St. Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que.) and Devon Kershaw (Sudbury, Ont.) were sixth out of 11 teams in their group and did not advance.

CURLING
Women's Semifinal - Canada defeated Great Britain 6-4 and plays Sweden in the gold medal match on Thursday.
Men's Semifinal - Canada defeated China 10-6 and will face Great Britain for the gold medal on Friday.

FIGURE SKATING
Ladies Short Program - Kaetlyn Osmond (Sherwood Park, Alta.) placed 13th with 56.18 points and Gabrielle Daleman (Newmarket, Ont.) was 19th with 52.61 going into Thursday's free program.

ICE HOCKEY
Men's Quarter-final - Canada defeated Latvia 2-1 and will play the U.S. in the semifinal game on Friday.

SNOWBOARD
Ladies' Parallel Giant Slalom - Marianne Leeson (Burlington, Ont.) placed 5th overall, Caroline Calve (Aylmer, Que.) took 6th and Ariane Lavigne (Lac-Superieur, Que.) was 8th. Each lost their quarter-final race.
Men's Parallel Giant Slalom - Defending gold medallist Jasey Jay Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., and Matt Morison of Burketon, Ont., made it through qualifying but were eliminated in the next round. Michael Lambert of Toronto failed to made it through qualifying. Anderson placed 14th overall, Morison 15th and Lambert 27th.

SPEED SKATING
Ladies' 5000 m - Ivanie Blondon of Ottawa placed 14th overall with a time of seven minutes 20.10 seconds, 28.56 seconds behind gold medalist Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic.

CURLING

At Sochi, Russia
All Times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
SEMIFINALS
Canada 10 China 6
Britain 6 Sweden 5
Tuesday's results
TIEBREAKER
Britain 6 Norway 5
Friday's games
BRONZE MEDAL
Sweden vs. China, 3:30 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Britain vs. **Canada**, 8:30 a.m.
WOMEN
Wednesday's results
SEMIFINALS
Canada 6 Britain 4
Sweden 7 Switzerland 5
Thursday's games
BRONZE MEDAL
Britain vs. Switzerland, 3:30 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Canada vs. Sweden, 8:30 a.m.

HOCKEY

All times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
QUARTERFINALS
Canada 2 Latvia 1
Sweden 5 Slovenia 0
Finland 3 Russia 1
United States 5 Czech Republic 2
Friday's games
SEMIFINALS
Sweden at Finland, 7 a.m.
Canada at United States, 12 p.m.
Saturday's game
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.
Sunday's game
GOLD MEDAL GAME
Semifinal winners, 7 a.m.

CANADA 2, LATVIA 1

First Period
1. Canada, Sharp 1 (Nash) 13:37.
2. Latvia, Darzins 1 (Kulda, Sprukts) 15:41.
Penalties — Sharp Cda (tripping) 6:18, Keith Cda (broken stick) 16:02.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Girgensons Lat (slashing) 5:37, St. Louis Cda (slashing) 10:21, Ozolinsh Lat (high-sticking) 19:33.
Third Period
3. Canada, Weber 1 (Doughty, Toews) 13:06 (pp).
Penalties — Pujacs Lat (slashing) 11:09.
Shots

Latvia	6	5	5—16
Canada	16	19	22—57

Goal — Latvia: Gudlevskis (L); Canada: Price (W). **Power plays (goal-chances) —** Latvia: 0-3; Canada: 1-3.
Referees — Tim Peel, Jyri Ronn. **Linesmen** — Brad Kovachik, Sakari Suominen.
Attendance — 9,825 at Sochi, Russia.
WOMEN
Thursday's games
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL GAME
Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Hey Yzerman, 'you're lucky'

Goalier than thou.
Lightning prospect stands on his head in front of future GM as Latvians almost slay Goliath in Sochi

As Kristers Gudlevskis turned aside shot after shot, Sidney Crosby and his teammates wondered what it would take to beat the Latvian goaltender.

"Besides picking the puck up and throwing it in the net, what could you tell someone to do in those situations?" Crosby said.

Team Canada didn't quite have to resort to that, surviving a historic upset bid by Latvia with a 2-1 win in the quarter-finals of the Olympics on the strength of a late power-play goal by Shea Weber.

Despite Gudlevskis making 55 saves on 57 shots, coach Mike Babcock didn't sense any uneasiness on his bench. It's his hope that being in a tight, frustrating game will help Canada as it advances to face the rival Americans in the semifinals Friday.

"We just thought if we kept doing it, we'd get our chances, we'd get a break, we'd score a goal," Babcock said. "Did I want to win 7-1? Absolutely. Do I think it's better for my team that we won the way we did? For sure."

The next one looks tougher on paper than any of Canada's first four games in Sochi. At first glance, a matchup against 11th-seeded Latvia didn't seem like it would be much of a test for the gold-medal favourites.

Canada, Babcock insisted, did not take Latvia lightly. Watching coach Ted Nolan's group eliminate Switzerland should have been enough of a wake-up call.

Still, it was hard to expect this. After Patrick Sharp gave Canada a lead at the 13:37 mark of the first period, it looked like Gudlevskis wouldn't get beat again and the frustration crept in.

"It can get to you, I think, a little bit," winger Patrick Marleau said. "But you just got to keep persisting and think that next one's going to go in."

It didn't help that most of the game elapsed with a tie score after Lauris Darzins got a breakaway and beat Carey Price two minutes after Sharp's goal. And it didn't help that Canada played almost two full periods without John Tavares, who was hit by Arturs Kulda and is out for the rest of the tournament with a knee injury.

A controversial no-goal call in the third period that could have led to a Canadian penalty shot only added to the drama.

All the while, Canada had Gudlevskis and the Latvians under siege but couldn't break through. It's one thing to squeeze the sticks a little too tight, but another one altogether to have a goalie looking like a brick wall.

"Coming into this tournament we talked about facing adversity," defenceman Duncan Keith said. "There was a little bit there throughout this game. We didn't want to get frustrated with the score being tied."

Told he scared the entire country of Canada on Wednesday night, Gudlevskis said: "I hope so." Asked what he'd say to Team Canada executive director and Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman, the 21-year-old responded: "You're lucky."

In Nolan's eyes, Canada was lucky to take the lead at 13:06 of the third after a slashing penalty was called on Georgijs Pujacs. But Babcock saw it more as the following-through on a game plan.

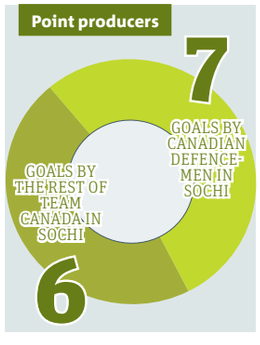
"We just thought we were going to win," he said. "We just talked about being patient and staying the course, not getting in a hurry, not forcing anything. If we did that we thought we'd be fine, and in the end we were."

That was one lesson Canada gleaned from this scare and almost joining the 2002 Swedish team that lost to Belarus in Salt Lake City in an infamous chapter of the Olympic history books: Winning matters more at this stage than how it happens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Point producers



Americans up next

"They're obviously the favourite coming into the tournament, and we've opened up a lot of eyes with our play, but we have more in the tank to give and to show."

Max Pacioretty on the looming rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game with Canada. Pacioretty's Americans notched a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic on Wednesday. Canada and the U.S. meet in the semifinal on Friday.

Cross-border semi No. 2

"I think the Russian team will win."

Sweden coach Par Marts making a prediction after his team's 5-0 win over Slovenia, but before the Russia-Finland quarter-final. Finland coach Erkka Westerlund said "no comment" when asked for his reaction to what Marts said, and Finn forward Olli Jokinen added: "I don't really care." The Scandinavian rivals meet in the semifinals Friday.

Game of his life

"We were disappointed, because we tried to make a miracle today and we just couldn't do it."

Latvia's Kristers Gudlevskis, who stopped 55 shots and gave hockey fans across Canada cause for major concern on Wednesday afternoon.

Questionable call

C'mon ref!

It looked like Canada took the lead 8:27 into the third, but a controversial call kept it 1-1. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Marleau got the puck to the goal-line and almost over, but Latvia defenceman Kristaps Sotnieks gloved it to keep it out.

The ruling was that the puck did not fully cross the line, and Canada did not get a penalty shot because that cannot be awarded on review.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'You never know'

Russian hopes Finn-ished

After Russia's men's hockey loss in the quarter-finals to Finland, most of Russia's players rushed through a mixed zone with TV cameras and reporters without stopping, waving off requests to verbalize their disappointment in losing their medal chances in the Sochi Games.

The players who did stop were brief. And Finland, not surprisingly, had a little more to say, with many sentiments summed up by forward Teemu Selanne:

"The experts are wrong many times — and I love it."

Still, as happy as the Finns were, they did show some sympathy for a Russian team that was carrying such high expectations.

Selanne: "I'm a little bit sad also for them. Obviously, they had a big dream to win the gold medal here and then it doesn't work so it's kind of disappointing in many ways because that would be a great story. But again, it's proving to the hockey world that you never know."

Russia's Alex Ovechkin only had this to say: "No emotion right now."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian hockey fans at the end of Russia's loss to Finland on Wednesday.
JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There are a lot of things you need to consider, things that may be of benefit to you in the not too distant future, so don't waste your time socializing when you should be thinking.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Aim to make new friends over the next 24 hours, especially with people whose interests are in some way out of the ordinary. It's not true that Taurus is old-fashioned. In fact, you can be a bit of a rebel.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will come under pressure today, especially at work where someone in a position of authority will do their best to make life miserable for you. Stay cool and don't let them provoke you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is time to move on, with no regrets, no backward glances and no promises that if things don't work out you can always go back. Draw a line in the sand, step across it and embrace the new you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It will pay you to be ruthless today, especially when dealing with people who always seem to get more out of your relationship than you. Look tough, talk tough and, when the time comes, act tough too.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may seem as if you're dancing to everyone's tune. Why is that bad? Sometimes it's nice to sit back and let others worry about where to go and what to do next.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Stop worrying about all the little things that may or may not be going wrong and concentrate on the one big thing you would most like to go right. Focus your mind power in a single direction.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Put your own interests first. The Sun in Pisces is giving you a boost of confidence, so make the most of it and make sure everyone knows where you are coming from and what you intend to do.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
As the Sun is moving through the domestic area of your chart it will pay you to focus more on family members than on yourself or your work.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Let people know what is on your mind today. If you keep your thoughts to yourself you will not only feel isolated but you will miss out on a chance to influence the great debate.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Limit spending to essentials today. You know how easy it is to reach into your pocket and find cash for this or that but if you do that now you may have nothing left for the weekend.

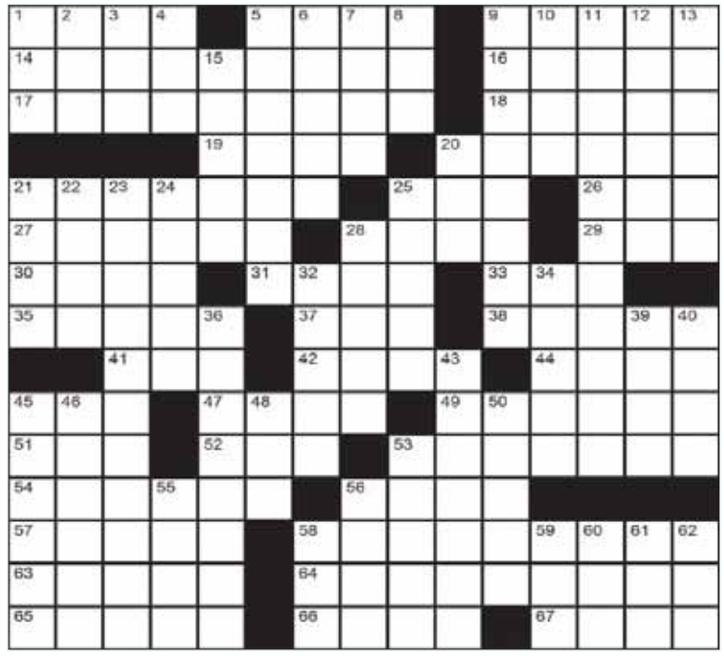
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Make the most of the Sun in your sign to do something out of the ordinary, something that makes the world sit up and take notice. Don't worry that what you do may be seen as "controversial" — the more people you offend the better.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



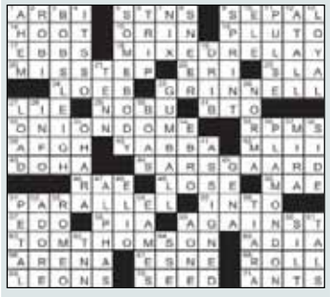
Across

1. SOCHI 2014 - Ice Hockey venue, Bolshoy Ice __
5. Military cap
9. Derek & The Dominos song
14. Inuit language
16. Dainty cases
17. Contemporary creation: 2 wds.
18. SOCHI 2014 - Russki __ Ski Jumping Center
19. SOCHI 2014 - 'I' of IOC [abbr.]
20. "You Needed Me" bit: "_ __ a tear..."
21. Fifty Shades of Grey novelist, _._. __
25. Ford product
26. See, in Dutch
27. Author, __ May Alcott
28. __ fide
29. Elevs.
30. 17th-century sailor, Captain __
31. Unique
33. Caesar's 1051
35. Choler
37. Fire: French
38. Canadian guitarist renowned for Mediterranean music
41. Time
42. Fruit-filled pastry
44. Singer Mr. Cruz
45. Seed holder
47. Search
49. Actor Mr. Hauer
51. Pre-afternoon hrs.
52. __ excellence
53. Go to a restaurant: 2 wds.
54. Relishes: 2 wds.
56. Examination
57. "That was _ __!" (I had fun!)
58. Body of water for Saint Petersburg, Russia: 2 wds.
63. "Do you get the birthday __ _ sent?"
64. 'We Were Born to Glory' Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
65. Shakira album: 'Donde __ los Ladrones?'
66. Formal gr.
67. Leave out

Down

1. Faint
2. Yoko's surname
3. Soaked soil
4. Barely get by
5. Actor Greg
6. Les __-Unis (United States, in French)
7. Knitting stitch
8. Addams Family relative
9. Painful 'pin' problem: 2 wds.
10. 'Origin' suffix
11. Doctor played by Omar Sharif: 2 wds.
12. Appreciate something: 2 wds.
13. Digressions
15. Pares
20. Sir McKellen link
21. "Hot in Cleveland" role
22. Meat cut
23. SOCHI 2014 - Figure Skating, for example: 2 wds.
24. Helpful human
25. Heart: French
28. Crack
32. Following
34. Coffee order
36. Boney M. disco hit
39. Stead
40. __ cloud, as per Astronomy
43. Soap opera star Mr. Rogers
45. Royal residence
46. "Mutual of __ Wild Kingdom"
48. The Raven writer's monogram
50. Up to
53. Quebec's flag symbol, Fleur-__-__ [var. sp.]
55. Pop
56. Artsy spot in New Mexico
58. Undergarment
59. Mountain basin
60. "...or __ _ thought."
61. Dawn goddess
62. Promos

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2					3	9	7	
	5			1		3	2	
4			5					6
				5			1	8
		3				5		
5	7			2				
1					8			2
	8	5		6			4	
	9	2	7					1

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	4	9	7	2	5	8	1
5	9	1	6	8	3	7	4	2
8	7	2	5	4	1	9	3	6
9	2	8	3	6	5	4	1	7
7	1	5	4	2	9	3	6	8
4	3	6	8	1	7	2	9	5
1	5	3	2	9	6	8	7	4
6	4	9	7	5	8	1	2	3
2	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	9

Today
1°/0°
Flurries
40%

Friday
4°/-5°
Rain
90%

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